

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 RSR-01 RSC-01 /061 W

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R 0211200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5342

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, NG, DM

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT: WEST AFRICA

REF: STATE 071679

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL TRANSMITTING TEXT WEST AFRICAN SECTION OF SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT. WE WERE HOWEVER SURPRISED AND UNHAPPY TO FIND IN PARA 16 ON AID PROGRAMS IN THE ENTENTE, SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO LOAN TO GON FOR RAISING LOW GAYA- MALANVILLE NIGER RIVER BRIDGE, EXPRESS REFERENCE TO THIS UNDERTAKING BEING QTE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF DAHOMEAN GOVERNMENT UNQTE.

2. AS DEPT AND AID/ W WILL RECALL, WE ACCEDED TO REQUEST OF GON WHEN LOAN WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION, THAT LEGAL REQUIREMENT OF DAHOMEAN APPROVAL WOULD BE OMITTED NOT OF PUBLIC AGREEMENT, BUT RATHER

BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE PRIVATE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. IT IS THEREFORE UNFORTUNATE INTERMS OF OUR GENERALLY EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH GON TO HAVE MATTER NOW APPEAR NOT ONLY IN PUBLIC DOCUMENT BUT IN HIGH-LEVEL POLICY REPORT OF THIS SORT.

3. GON' S REASONS FOR WISHING KEEP SUBJECT CONFIDENTIAL WERE: ISSUE WAS ONE WHICH PRESIDENT DIORI BELIEVED SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE SETTLED ON BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN NIGER AND DAHOMEAN GOVERNMENTS. HE ALSO WISHED TO AVOID STIRRING UP SHORTSIGHTED OPPONENTS IN DAHOMEY OF OPENING UP NIGER RIVER TRANSPORTATION ROUTE FOR FEAR THIS WOULD

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UNDERCUT DAHOMEY' S REVENUES FROM HANDLING FREIGHT FOR NIGER. DIORI ALSO FELT THAT DESCRIBING BRIDGE PROJECT IN LOAN AGREEMENT AS CON-

TINGENT ON DAHOMEAN APPROVAL CREATED UNWARRANTED IMPRESSION DAHOMEAN
GOVT MIGHT REFUSE APPROVAL, A MOVE HE CONSIDERED MOST UNLIKELY.
(NOTE: EMBASSY COTONOU' S COMMENTS ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.)

4. IN CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS PERHAPS FORTUNATE THAT GON FOREIGN MINISTER
DOES NOT READ ENGLISH (STATE 073787).

5. IF DEPT PLANS TO ISSUE FRENCH VERSION OF AFRICAN SECTION OF
SECRETARY' S REPORT, WHICH IS ONLY FORM IN WHICH IT CAN EFFECTIVELY
BE USED HERE, WE HOPE OFFENDING PHRASE IN QUESTION CAN BE OMITTED.
MCCLELLAND

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Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NIAMEY01104
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730458/abqcdynn.tel
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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